Contract of Prasar Bharati with UNI and PTI

†1899. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that renewal of the contract and revision in rates between Prasar Bharati, United News of India (UNI) and Press Trust of India (PTI) is pending over several years; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Prasar Bharati in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that News Services Division (NSD) was making payment to United News of India (UNI) and Press Trust of India (PTI) as per the rates earlier decided by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting up to 31.03.2000. Thereafter, an agreement for the rates was made by Prasar Bharati with the approval of Prasar Bharati Board for a period up to 31.03.2006. After that NSD is making payments to UNI/PTI on *ad-hoc* and pro-rata basis. The Price Negotiation Committee (PNC) was set up by Prasar Bharati on 11.05.2006 for this purpose.

Unauthorised TV channels by cable operators

1900. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several unauthorized channels are being shown by cable operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Q TV, Peace TV and Saudi TV are beaming programmes for preaching religious matters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for checking illegal downloading of these TV channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is in receipt of inputs regarding downlinking and retransmission of unregistered satellite TV channels by Cable operators in their network in certain parts of the country.

(c) and (d) The Government is in receipt of inputs of some channels which have neither been permitted to uplink from India nor permitted/ registered to downlink in India as per the uplinking and downlinking guidelines are being shown illegally. The content shown on TV channels including religious content is regulated as per the provision of Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules made thereunder. However the Programme Code permits cable operators to carry only such satellite

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.